



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer-
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held November 18, 2008, the Board took the following action:

4

The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisor Burke:

“In Los Angeles County, rates for many sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are much higher among African-American women and Latinas. Chlamydia rates are almost 10 times higher for African-American women than White women. Latinas are also experiencing disproportionately higher rates of Chlamydia, at almost five times the rate of White women. These rates and disparities are even higher for younger women. Left untreated, Chlamydia may lead to serious complications, including infertility and chronic pain. Many STDs are silent, in that they cause few symptoms, and many STDs can be diagnosed *only* through testing, yet routine screening is not widespread. In addition, access to Pap screening, a critical preventive health service for women, is hindered among women using public health services because such services are often located in a separate location from STD clinics. With regular screening tests and follow-up, cervical cancer is a preventable disease.

“All individuals in the County should have appropriate access to the full range of reproductive services, including but not limited to prenatal care, contraceptive care including timely access to emergency contraception, comprehensive sexual health education, and screening and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases. Unfortunately, the data on STDs and infant mortality paint a picture of continued disparities and unequal access.”

(Continued on Page 2)

4 (Continued)

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Burke, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, unanimously carried (Supervisor Molina being absent), the Board took the following actions:

1. Instructed the Chief Executive Officer to work in concert with the Director of Public Health and the Interim Director of Health Services to identify opportunities to improve the County's systems of care so that women seeking services through a Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic receive basic reproductive health services such as Pap tests, without having to schedule an appointment and go to a separate clinic in another facility;
2. Instructed the Director of Public Health, the Interim Director of Health Services and Director of Internal Services to work together to increase the visibility of public health campaigns by utilizing space in County buildings to publicize them, which would assist the County in getting key messages and education on screening for cancer, sexually transmitted diseases and other public health issues to clients, health professionals and others visiting County facilities; and
3. Instructed the Chief Executive Officer, Director of Public Health and the Interim Director of Health Services to and Director of Internal Services report back to the Board within 60 days.

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Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor
Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Director of Internal Services
Director of Public Health
Interim Director of Health Services